

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

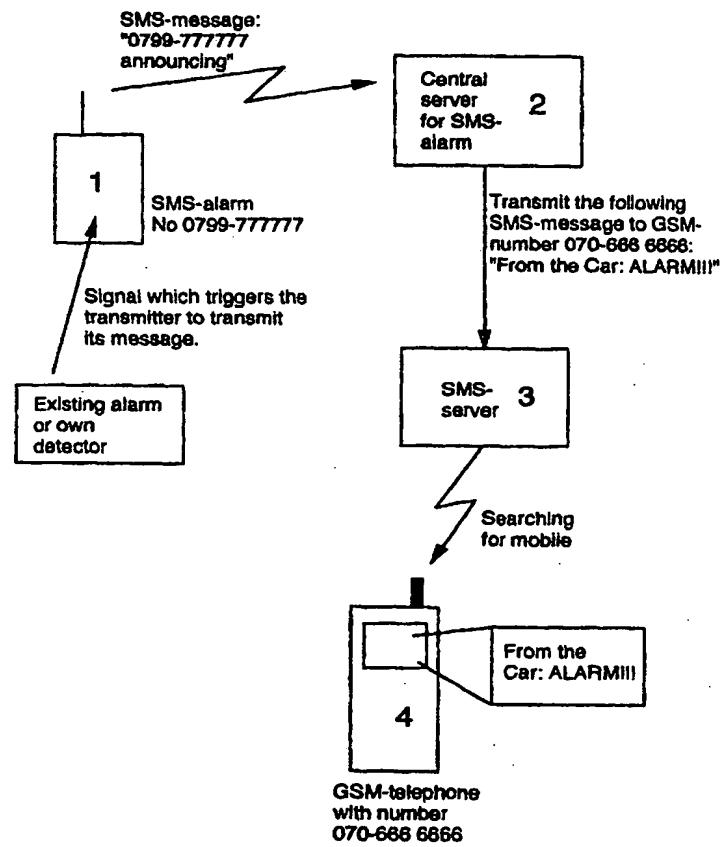
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(54) Title: SMS-ALARM

(57) Abstract

The invention relates to utilization of an SMS-transmitter (1) as car alarm. When physical damage is made to a car, the SMS-transmitter (1) transmits a preprogrammed message to a central server (2) for SMS-alarm. This central server (2) for SMS-alarm after that transmits an alarm message to the owner of the alarm in the form of either an SMS-message, or a minicall text-message. The alarm message is shown on the owner's mobile telephone display (4) or on the display of the minicall receiver (6).



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TITLE OF THE INVENTION: SMS-ALARM

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates to a device and a method at a telecommunications system for generation of alarm signals.

PRIOR ART

10 The share of cars which are equipped with alarm has increased in recent years. For different reasons by that also the number of false triggered alarms has unfortunately increased. This is applicable above all to cities where people nowadays hardly react on when a car alarm is sounding. In most cases the car cannot either be parked in 15 such a way that the owner can hear if the alarm is triggered.

20 A big problem with the alarms of today is that the thieves within 5-10 seconds most often have succeeded in switching off the alarm, which results in that it is only interpreted as one out of a large number of false alarms.

25 These factors have resulted in that the feeling of security of having an alarm device in the car to a great extent has been reduced. It consequently would be desirable to have more control over the alarm for getting immediate information if it is triggered, and by that rapidly be able to take suitable actions.

The present invention intends to solve this problem by utilizing an SMS-alarm (SMS = Short Message Services).

30 To find out whether the prior art has utilized SMS-alarm to solve above mentioned problem, a preliminary investigation was made, at which the following documents were found.

Document 1: US-A-5 416 725

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2: US-A-4 887 291

3: US-A-5 272 465
4: US-A-5 351 235

Document 1 relates to a computer based alarm system
5 where a number of fixed or mobile sensors 38, 32 first
transfer alarm information to the computer system 12 over
an "alarm interface" 26, respective "remote unit interface"
30, and after that transmits alarm information in form of
for instance text information over a cellular network to
10 selected authorities or persons (column 7, line 4-15. See
especially "Summary of the invention" and Figure 1 with
belonging text.

Document 2 describes an alarm system by which, for
instance, fire- or burglary alarm text information can be
15 transmitted to a mobile pager. See especially "Abstract"
and Figure 1 with belonging text.

Document 3 deals with an "Automatic alarm code
converter" capable of receiving and processing alarm
reports from different sources and with different codings
20 and then generating an alarm report in form of a text
message to a pager. See "Background of the invention" and
"Summary of the invention" and Figure 1 with belonging
text.

Document 4 describes a method to transmit SMS-messages
25 between mobile units, or between fixed and mobile units,
over a cellular network such as, for instance, GSM. See
especially the embodiment which is explained in Figure 9-11
with belonging text, where information about, for instance,
the amount of light fuel oil in a villa oil tank
30 automatically can be transmitted to a mobile unit in form
of an SMS-message.

The above documents referred to, consequently do not
make use of any alarm device which explicitly transmits a
preprogrammed SMS-message over a cellular telephone
35 network.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The aim of the present invention consequently is to solve above mentioned problem by utilizing an SMS-alarm.

This aim is achieved by a device and a method which is characterized in that an SMS-transmitter transmits a preprogrammed message, when an alarm device is activated, to a central server for SMS-alarm, after which said central server transmits an alarm message to the owner of the alarm device/SMS-transmitter in form of an SMS-message/minicall-message.

The alarm according to the present invention has many advantages in comparison with ordinary car alarms.

One advantage is that when the alarm once has been triggered, the thief has no possibility to switch off the alarm.

Another advantage is that the alarm is portable. It doesn't matter where the owner is, provided that the owner carries with himself/herself his/her mobile telephone with SMS-reception or his/her minicall-receiver.

One more advantage of the present invention is that the owner of the alarm device at received alarm can call the police with his/her telephone. The owner of the alarm device consequently need not, as is the case today, go to his/her car to check from where the alarm sound is coming; the alarm may of course just as well come from another car.

Further characteristics of the invention are given in the subclaims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

In the following a more detailed description of the invention is given with reference to the enclosed figures.

Figure 1 describes schematically a telecommunications system where an SMS-alarm is connected to a GSM-telephone with an SMS-service.

Figure 2 describes schematically a telecommunications system where an SMS-alarm is connected to Minicall.

Figure 3 describes a potential scenario.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF AN EMBODIMENT OF THE INVENTION

The invention consists of a transmitter in combination with a detector, at which the transmitter can transmit a 10 preprogrammed SMS-message over the GSM-network to a central server which manages the service SMS-alarm. The number to this server is stored in the transmitter. This message is unique to each individual transmitter, and might consist of a subscriber number or the like.

15 In the following the invention will be described first with reference to Figure 1 (the SMS-case), and then with reference to Figure 2 (the Minicall-case). After that the invention will be described as it is preferably intended to be used with reference to Figure 3.

20 Let us suppose that the SMS-transmitter (Figure 1) is arranged inside a car and connected to on one hand a detector, and on the other an antenna device. The detector shall be activated at physical damage to the car, for instance if somebody tries to break open the lock of the 25 door, or smashes a car window. It must of course be realized that the detector also can be integrated in the SMS-transmitter.

When the transmitter 1 receives a trigger signal from an alarm device or a detector, it immediately transmits its 30 programmed message to the SMS-alarm server 2, for instance its subscriber number 0799-777777.

The central server 2 reads which transmitter that has transmitted an alarm and performs the instructions which are associated to just this SMS-alarm. It finds out which 35 GSM-number that shall have the alarm message, the text to

be used in it, how many messages that shall be transmitted, and with which intervals they shall be transmitted. These parameters can be selected freely by the customer and be changed when necessary.

5 After that the SMS-message is transmitted to the SMS-server 3 of an operator which in ordinary way makes a search of the mobile in question, 4. No modification of the SMS-server 3 needs to be done, since all functionality connected to the SMS-alarm is in the central server 2 for 10 SMS-alarm. This also results in that when the alarm once has reached the alarm-center 2, it cannot be stopped by destruction of the transmitter. The alarm center still performs its searchings according to its program, or until 15 the customer has confirmed that he/she has been reached by the message by calling the center 2. At the center 2 there is a computerized keyset code service which makes it possible for the customer to, by means of a digit code, switch off the alarm.

As can be seen in Figure 2 a situation is shown where 20 the SMS-alarm server 2 transmits SMS-messages to a Minicall-center 5, instead of to an SMS-server 3 as in Figure 1. The transmitter of the SMS-alarm is in this case the same as before, but in the central alarm server 2 the SMS-alarm is instead forwarded in form of a minicall-search 25 via a minicall text center 5 to a minicall receiver 6.

It should be realized that the described SMS-transmitter shall be possible to be connected directly to a conventional car alarm which generates sound signals.

The SMS-transmitter can, in the first place, be 30 offered as a complement to different alarm systems for cars, boats, houses etc. This can either be offered to customers by cooperation with manufacturers of alarm systems, or by selling the product themselves as an accessory device to different alarm devices.

Another use is to provide the SMS-transmitter 1 with an own detector of some kind, and in that way use it as a less sophisticated alarm for, for instance, the cellar storage room, the bicycle or the like.

5 In the following a possible scenario is described with reference to Figure 3.

A customer has bought a car equipped with an alarm which has the supplementary service "SMS-alarm", i.e. a small alarm transmitter is located somewhere in the car. At 10 the purchase the customer had to fill in his/her GSM-number, to which the alarm should be connected, and how many SMS-messages that should be generated each time the alarm is triggered, and how long the interval between them should be. The customer selected the alternative three 15 transmissions with thirty seconds interval, two minutes interruption, and then repeated transmissions according to this schedule, until the SMS-alarm is switched off manually via the telephone service.

One evening when the customer is watching TV, somebody 20 makes an attempt at breaking into the customer's car which is parked two blocks away. The alarm will of course be triggered, but the thieves succeed in silencing the siren after 5-10 seconds. Because everybody are used to people forgetting to deactivate their alarms, nobody will pay 25 attention to the occurrence. Our customer, on the contrary, is well situated since he/she has an "SMS-alarm".

The telephone peeps shortly after the alarm has been triggered and the text "FROM THE CAR: ALARM" will show up on the display of the mobile, whereupon the customer 30 immediately calls the police. Three minutes after the alarm has been triggered, the police is on the spot and the thieves are caught in the act.

The above described is only to be regarded as an advantageous embodiment of the invention, and the scope of

protection of the invention is only defined by what are indicated in the following patent claims.

PATENT CLAIMS

1. Device at a telecommunications system for generation of alarm signals, characterized in an SMS-transmitter (1) which is connected to a detector, at 5 which said SMS-transmitter (1) transmits a programmed message to a central server (2) for SMS-alarm when said detector generates an alarm, at which said server (2) is arranged to identify said SMS-transmitter (1) and transmit a preprogrammed alarm message to the owner of said SMS- 10 transmitter.

2. Device according to patent claim 1, characterized in that said central server (2) transmits a preprogrammed SMS-message, for instance "From the Car: ALARM", to an SMS-server (3), which SMS-server (3) 15 provides searching for said alarm owner's mobile telephone (4), at which the SMS-message is shown to said owner on the display of the mobile telephone, together with warning signals.

3. Device according to patent claim 1, 20 characterized in that said central server (2) transmits a preprogrammed Minicall-message, for instance "From the Car: ALARM", to a Minicall text center (5), which center (5) provides searching for said alarm owner's minicall receiver (6), at which the SMS-message is shown to 25 said owner on the display of the minicall receiver, together with warning signals.

4. Device according to any of the previous patent claims, characterized in that said SMS-transmitter (1) is equipped with an own alarm detector or 30 connected to an externally arranged alarm detector, at which said SMS-transmitter (1) is arranged to immediately transmit its subscriber number, for instance 0799-777777, to said central server (2) when said transmitter (1) receives a trigger signal from said alarm detectors, at 35 which said central server (2) is arranged to identify said

transmitter och perform the instructions which are connected to said subscriber number.

5. Device according to any of the previous patent claims, characterized in that said central server (2) is equipped with a computerized key set code service, at which said alarm owner can switch off the alarm by means of a digital code.

10 6. Device according to any of the previous patent claims, characterized in that said SMS-transmitter (1) is arranged at a vehicle and connected on one hand to said detector, and on the other to an antenna device, at which said detector generates an alarm signal at physical damage to said vehicle.

15 7. Device according to any of the previous patent claims, characterized in that said SMS-transmitter is connected to a conventional car alarm which generates sound signals.

20 8. Method at a telecommunications system for generation of alarm signals, characterized in that an SMS-transmitter (1) connected to a detector transmits a message to a central server (2) for SMS-alarm, when said detector generates an alarm, at which said server (2) identifies said SMS-transmitter and transmits a preprogrammed alarm message, for instance "From the Car: 25 ALARM", to the owner of said SMS-transmitter (1).

9. Method according to patent claim 8, at which said SMS-transmitter, together with said detector, constitutes an alarm device in a car, characterized in that it includes the steps that:

30 a) a person/persons makes physical damage to said car, at which the detector generates an alarm signal to said transmitter (1);

35 b) said transmitter generates a message, preferably its subscriber number 0799-777777, which is transmitted to a central server (2) for SMS-alarm;

c) said central server identifies said SMS-transmitter (1) and finds out which GSM-number that shall have said preprogrammed message, and what text that shall be in said message; for instance "From the Car: ALARM";

5 d) said central server (2) transmits said preprogrammed SMS-message to an operator's SMS-server (3), which provides searching for mobile telephone in question (4);

10 e) said alarm message is shown on the display of the mobile telephone in question (4) together with peep signals;

15 f) the owner of said mobile telephone (4) calls the police and switches off the alarm by calling the central (2) and utilizing a computerized keyset code service which makes it possible for the owner to, by means of a digital code, switch off the alarm.

10. Method according to patent claim 8, at which said SMS-transmitter, together with said detector, constitutes an alarm device in a car, characterized in that 20 it includes the steps that:

a) a person/persons makes physical damage to said car, at which the detector generates an alarm signal to said transmitter (1);

25 b) said transmitter (1) generates a message, preferably its subscriber number 0799-777777, which is transmitted to a central server (2) for SMS-alarm;

c) said central server (2) identifies said SMS-transmitter (1) and finds out which minicall-number that shall have said preprogrammed message, and what text that shall be in said message;

30 d) said central server (2) transmits said preprogrammed minicall text-message to a minicall text-center (5) which provides searching for minicall receiver in question (6);

- e) said alarm message is shown on the display of the minicall receiver in question, together with peep-signals;
- f) the owner of said minicall-receiver (6) calls the police and switches off the alarm by calling the center (2) and utilizing a computerized keyset code service which makes it possible for the owner to, by means of a digital code, switch off the alarm.

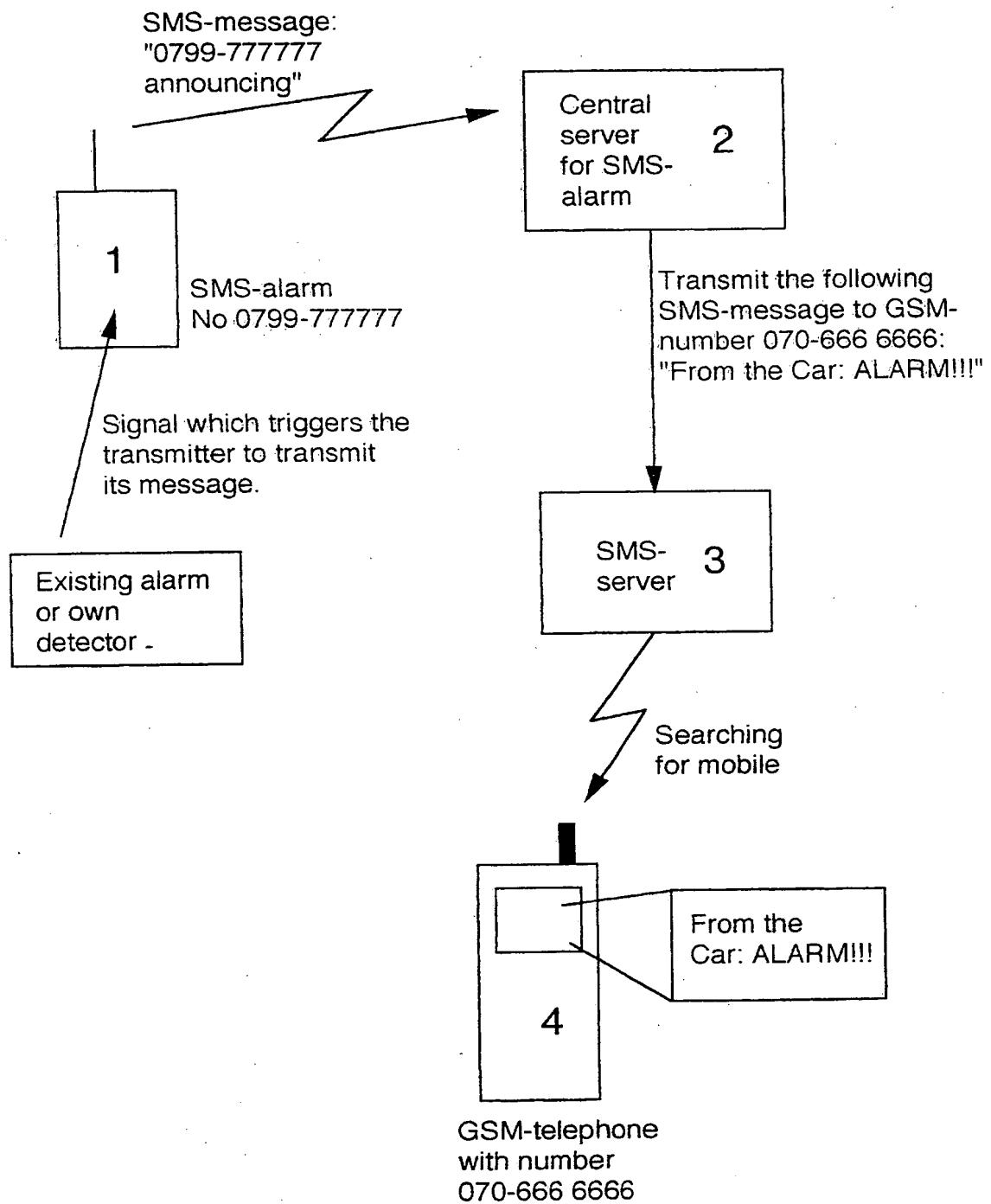


Figure 1

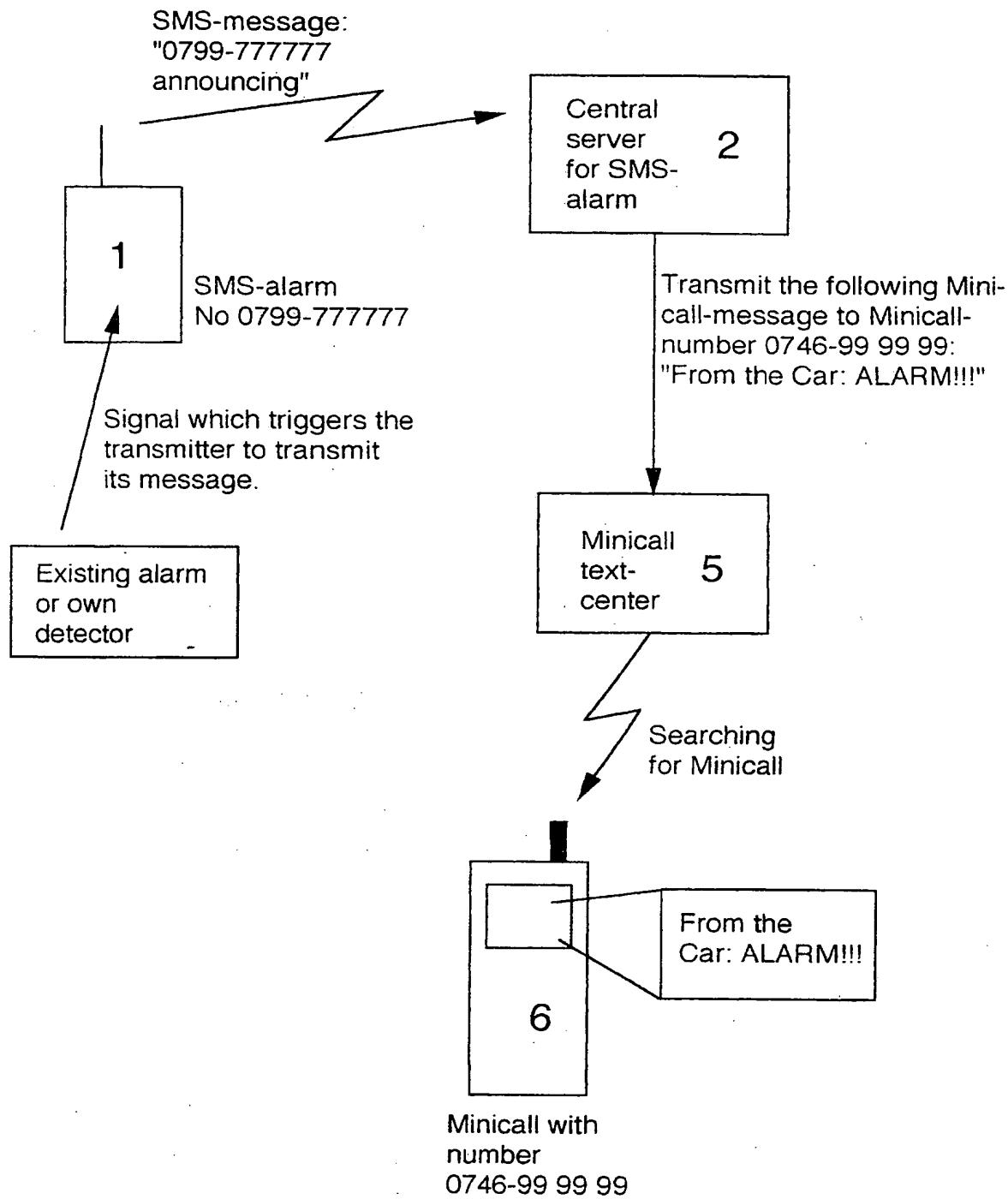


Figure 2

3/3

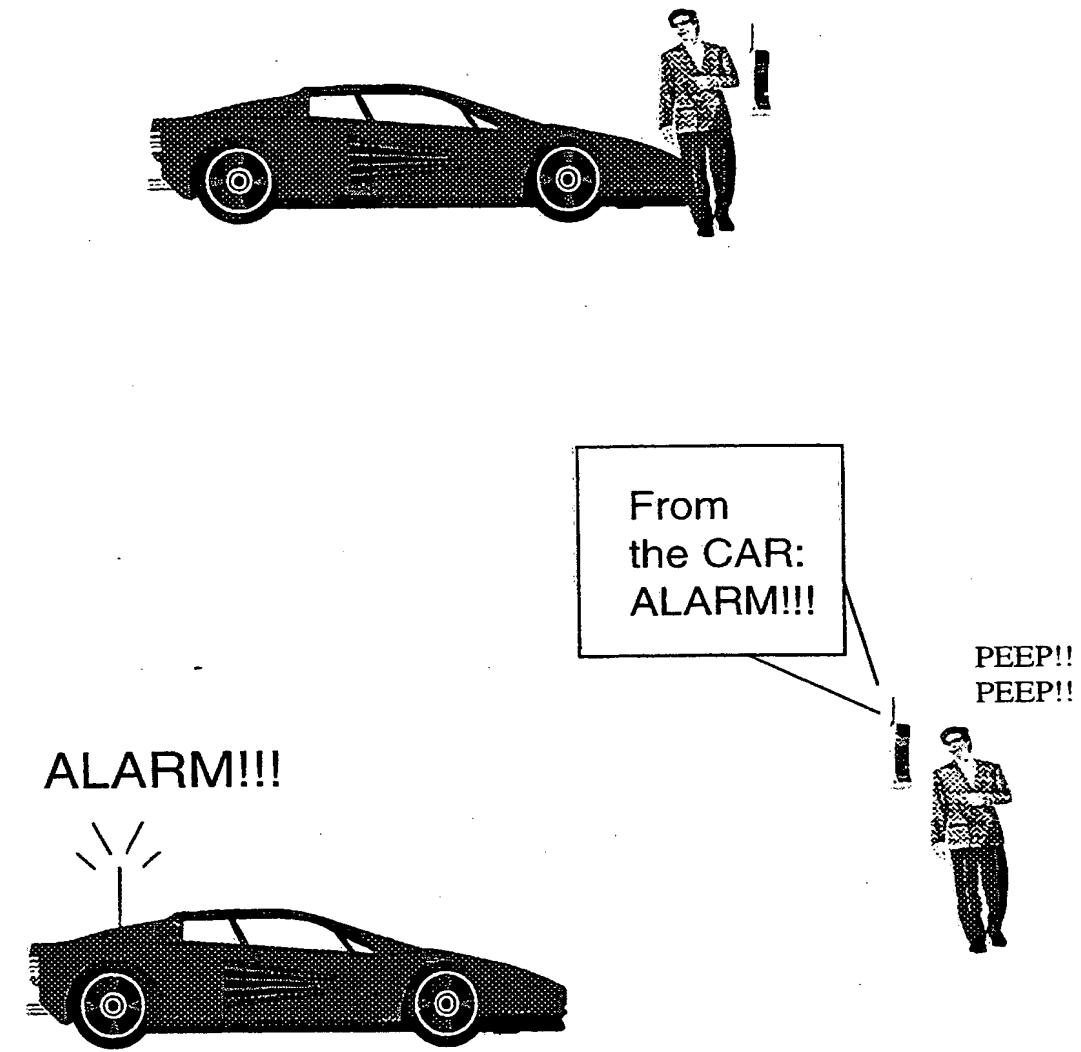


Figure 3

SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SE 97/01714

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC6: B60R 25/10, H04Q 7/22

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC6: B60R, H04Q

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5416725 A (STEVEN M. PACHECO ET AL), 16 May 1995 (16.05.95), column 7, line 4 - line 15, abstract --	1-10
X	EP 0417944 A2 (NOKIA MOBILE PHONES LTD.), 20 March 1991 (20.03.91), column 1, line 18 - line 22, abstract --	1-10
X	US 4887291 A (JAMES T. STILLWELL), 12 December 1989 (12.12.89), column 1, line 53 - column 2, line 13 -- -----	1-10

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	
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"Y"	document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"&"	document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

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10.03.98

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No. PCT/SE 97/01714
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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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EP 0417944 A2	20/03/91	SE 0417944 T3	
		AT 121035 T	15/04/95
		DE 69018550 D,T	14/12/95
		JP 3112751 A	14/05/91
US 4887291 A	12/12/89	NONE	

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